(a) whether it is a fact that the price of Indian coffee has doubled during the last 6 to 8 months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the high international prices give a chance for the Indian coffee industry to boost its export;

(d) if so, the likely export of coffee to different countries during the current year; and

(e) the income likely to be generated from this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) There has been a substantial increase in coffee prices in recent months compared to the overall position last year. This is in view of the global demand and supply position.

(c) The export of Indian coffee is not entirely dependent on international prices of coffee. India in any case exports about 75% of its coffee. The actual export of coffee depends largely on the production and domestic consumption of coffee in the country.

(d) and (e) Export of coffee in the current year is presently estimated to be around 200000 MTs, the value of which is estimated to be around US $ 320 million.

Effect of lifting quantitative ban on import of consumer commodities

†1730. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to lift the quantitative ban imposed on the import of consumer commodities;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that by the said action domestic production of consumer commodities will get a setback; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by Government for the development of the domestic industry?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Quantitative Restrictions are maintained in terms of Para 2.6 of the Foreign Trade Policy which includes protection of human, animal or plant life and health etc. India has been following a continuous policy of removal of Quantitative Restrictions on imports since 1991. Most of the consumer goods are freely importable, subject to the applicable rate of customs duty. However, the imports are being closely monitored and the Government is determined to ensure through the appropriate use of tariff and non tariff mechanisms that imports do not cause any serious injury to the domestic producers/indigenous industry.

Trade negotiations under Doha Round in Paris

1731. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sent any team to attend the special session of Ministerial Council Meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on "Trade Negotiations under the Doha Round in Paris" recently;

(b) if so, the composition of the team thereof;

(c) the details of the meetings held in this regard;

(d) the outcome thereof; and

(e) the details of the expenditure incurred for the said visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) An Indian delegation led by the Minister of Commerce and Industry (C&IM), while attending among other meetings, the Mini-Ministerial meeting of 35 countries on WTO, meeting of G-20 Ministers, and FIPs (Five Interested Parties) Ministers meeting, also participated in the Session on "Trade Negotiations under the Doha Development Round" under the Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris on 4 May 2005. The other members of the delegation were (i) Shri Gopal K. Pillai, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce; (ii) Shri Ujal Singh Bhatia, Ambassador/PR